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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

GO WILD!

Join the global celebration of World Wildlife Day p3

DID YOU KNOW?
Ukraine, which is located in Eastern Europe, covers more than 233,000 square miles and has a population of about 35.7 million people.

A rally in Toronto, Canada, to support Ukraine

Macron comes to the US

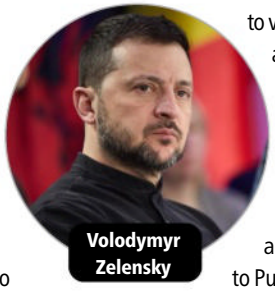
As world leaders gathered in Ukraine on February 24, French President Emmanuel Macron (above) met with President Donald Trump at the White House to discuss the war. He was the first European leader to visit since Trump took office in January. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was set to meet with Trump on February 27.

Three years of war in Ukraine

On February 24, many countries around the world marked the third anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which began when the neighboring country of Russia invaded it. The day arrived as tensions have risen over US support for Ukraine.

What has happened during the war?

The Russian invasion was the largest military attack in Europe since World War II (1939–1945). Ukraine is an independent nation, but Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, claimed that it was part of his country. Russia has been launching constant attacks on Ukraine and currently occupies 20% of its land, while Ukraine is defending itself and using drones to attack Russia. Since the war began, about 6.9 million Ukrainians have fled their country, and at least 153,000 people have been killed, including soldiers and civilians on both sides. At the start of the war, former US President Joe Biden and leaders of other nations, including the UK, France, Germany, and Canada, formed a united front to support Ukraine and condemn Russia. Together, this alliance—which is often referred to as the West—gave Ukraine hundreds of billions of dollars in weapons, tanks, and supplies. The US gave the most of any single nation—a total of $130 billion.


Volodymyr Zelensky

What happened recently?

Since taking office on January 20, President Donald Trump has broken with the West on the subject of Ukraine. On February 12, he spoke directly with Putin, who is widely considered to be a dictator (ruler with total power), about ending the war. On February 18, officials from Trump's administration met with Russian leaders in Saudi Arabia without Ukraine or other nations present. After Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, said Ukraine should have been included, Trump falsely stated that Ukraine started the war and Zelensky is a dictator. The Trump administration said that Ukraine should give up some of its land to Russia in exchange for peace and give the US access to valuable mineral deposits in Ukraine as repayment for US support.

How did world leaders react?

Trump's actions shocked Zelensky, other leaders, citizens of Ukraine, and people around the world who are concerned that Trump is giving in to Putin. Many leaders in the West fear that Putin will not stop at Ukraine and could try to invade other parts of Europe and the world. Emmanuel Macron, president of France, called emergency meetings with leaders of 19 European countries to coordinate a response and also traveled to the US to meet with Trump (see box above). Trump's former Vice President, Mike Pence, said, "Mr. President, Ukraine did not 'start' this war. Russia launched an unprovoked and brutal invasion." JD Vance, the current Vice President, said Trump is talking with Putin "to bring lasting peace to Europe."

How was the anniversary marked?

On February 24, Zelensky and other world leaders gathered in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. They laid candles at a memorial to Ukrainians killed in the war. "Three years of absolute heroism by our people," Zelensky said. "Eternal gratitude to the fallen heroes." The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), an organization that represents Ukrainians worldwide, reported that there had been more than 1,000 memorial services, rallies, and marches in 78 countries to mark the anniversary. The UWC said more than 15,000 people gathered in Toronto, Canada, and about 10,000 gathered in Paris, France.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, many Western nations had committed to spending billions more dollars to help Ukraine. Trump, however, said the US would likely stop providing any support and would hold another meeting with Russia in the coming days.

Holy month of Ramadan starts

Around the world, nearly 2 billion Muslims are celebrating the holy month of Ramadan. In the US, the month begins on February 28 and ends on March 29 this year. Muslims (people who follow the religion of Islam) believe it was during Ramadan in the year 610 when Allah (God) first revealed the Quran (Islamic religious text) to Islam's founder, the Prophet Muhammad.

Ramadan is a time to strengthen faith through reflection and prayer. People give to charity, visit mosques (places of worship), fast (do not eat or drink) during daylight hours, and share meals called iftar after sunset. Ramadan ends with Eid al-Fitr, a three-day festival of prayers, meals, and gifts.

Many people say Ramadan will feel somber this year due to the war in Gaza, where nearly 99% of people are Muslim. There will be celebrations, however, like the Sharjah Ramadan Festival in the United Arab Emirates and the Big Iftar gathering in the UK. The Islamic Center of America in Michigan, which is the largest mosque in North America, will host a nightly program throughout the month.

A family during Ramadan

RHINO RECOVERY
The black rhino lost 98% of its population between 1960 and 1995 but has started to recover thanks to conservation efforts.

A critically endangered black rhino in Kenya, Africa

World Wildlife Day observed

Every year on March 3, World Wildlife Day (WWD) is observed to raise awareness of endangered species and the importance of protecting Earth's wild plants and animals. Conservation and wildlife experts estimate that more than 1 million species on our planet are threatened with extinction.

The global event was officially established by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations) in 2013. It falls on March 3 because that was the day in 1973 when a treaty called the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed. Nearly every country in the world signed the treaty, which manages the international trade of plants and animals and works to ensure that their survival in the wild is not threatened.

This year's WWD theme is "Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet." Its primary focus will be on finding ways for people to work together to more efficiently and effectively raise money for conservation. While about $143 billion is spent on protecting wildlife each year, experts say $824 billion is needed to hit conservation targets.

WWD 2025 will include a celebration at the UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as photography exhibits, film screenings, musical performances, and talks by wildlife experts. Social media initiatives and the WWD International Youth Art Contest will focus on raising awareness among young people, who are key to the program's success. The UN event can be streamed live at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-WWD25.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

NEW CHEW TOYS

Squishmallows have taken the human world by storm, and now they're available for dogs too. Chew Mees are mini versions of the supersoft stuffies, made with extra-strong fabric and a squeaker inside. Colorful characters include a dog, shoe, squirrel, and tennis ball.

A Chew Mee

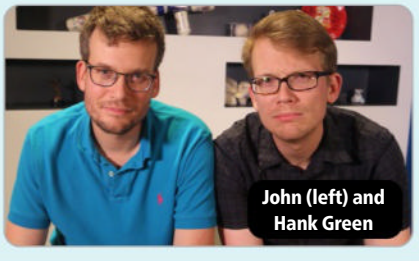
Mizu the goat

A GOAT'S GREATNESS

Meet Mizu, the GOAT of goats! The 2-year-old goat from Texas, whose name means "water" in Japanese, won *USA Today*'s Favorite Pet contest. His owner said the "charismatic, friendly, and loyal" goat has a job—to eat grass and keep the lawn trimmed—and loves strawberries.

AN AWESOME FUNDRAISER

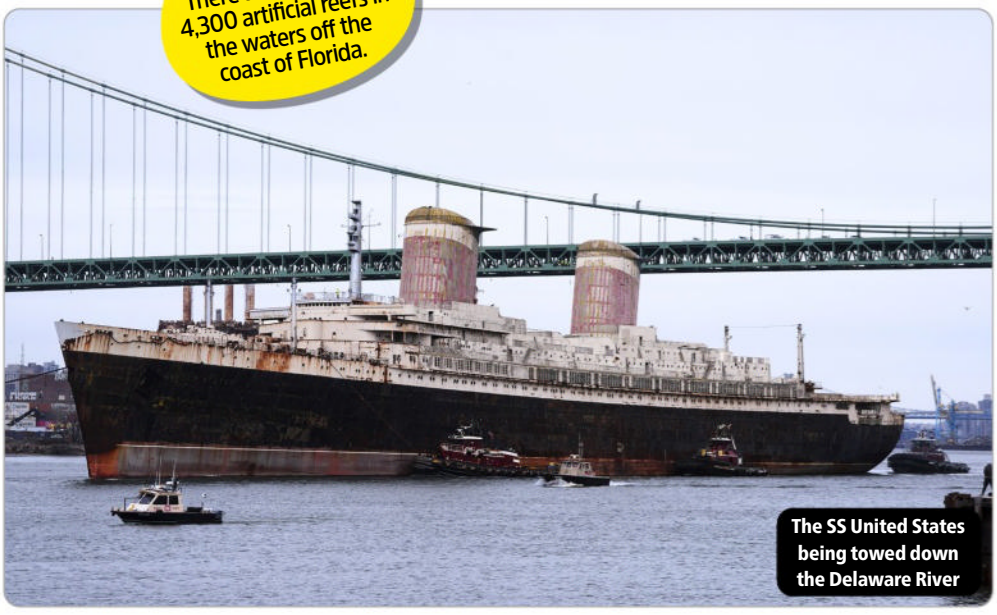
Brothers Hank and John Green are best-selling authors, podcasters, and YouTubers who also run an annual fundraiser called Project for Awesome. Started in 2007, the event is a 48-hour livestream, hosted by the Greens and special guests. This year, it raised $3.7 million that will go to charities chosen by viewers.



John (left) and Hank Green

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (16); ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); COURTESY OF JAZWARES; WOQB; HANKANDJOHN.COM; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

WOW! There are more than 4,300 artificial reefs in the waters off the coast of Florida.



The SS United States being towed down the Delaware River

A reef in action

Since 2020, an underwater camera has livestreamed a view of a coral reef off the coast of Miami, Florida (above). It has captured a diverse range of thriving marine life, and scientists are now studying the corals to learn how they've stayed healthy. The livestream can be viewed at coralcitycamera.com.

Historic ship to become artificial reef

The SS United States, one of the most famous passenger ships ever built in the US, has departed from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on its final voyage. It will be towed to a site off the coast of Florida, where it will become the world's largest artificial reef.

What is the SS United States?

The 990-foot-long ocean liner was designed as a passenger ship that could convert to carrying US troops. On its first voyage in 1952, it became the fastest ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. It traveled between the US and Europe 800 times before ending service in 1969. A nonprofit organization cared for the ship until last year, when Okaloosa County in Florida bought it for $10 million for the purpose of sinking it and turning it into a reef.

What is an artificial reef?

Shipwrecks and other human-made structures can serve as artificial reefs, providing habitats for marine life. Like coral reefs, they can feed and shelter a wide variety of sea creatures. Corals, crustaceans, and mollusks can attach themselves to the structure, and fish can live in it. Successful reefs attract worms, crabs, shrimp, and plants, which in turn attract bigger fish, like sea bass and flounder. The reefs can also protect shorelines from flooding and erosion. Okaloosa County officials hope the reef will attract fish, which would bring more tourists and scuba divers to the area.

What happened in Philadelphia?

On February 19, the SS United States left a port on the Delaware River, where it had been docked since 1996. Crowds gathered at the pier for one last glimpse of the large ship as five tugboats towed it along the river toward the Atlantic Ocean. One tugboat was then set to guide the ship south to Mobile, Alabama. The entire journey is expected to take 14 to 18 days.

What will happen next?

After arriving in Alabama, the ship will be prepared for sinking. Anything that could be harmful to the environment, including fuel, chemicals, and wires, will be removed. Holes will be cut into the ship to make it easier to sink. It will then be towed to a site in the ocean off the coast of Florida, where its new life as a reef will begin. A museum dedicated to the ship will also be created in Okaloosa County.

WORD OF THE WEEK

BLUEJAY

"Robin" is based on the first name "Robert," and "jay" is thought to come from the Latin name "Gaius." The jay family, including the bluejay, is known for its noisy chatter and lively antics, so its name has become associated with silliness. A "jaywalker," for example, is someone who behaves foolishly by unsafely crossing the street.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 3, 1931

Official national anthem chosen

On March 3, 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key (1779–1843) became the US national anthem. The Senate (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) passed legislation to adopt the song, and President Herbert Hoover signed the bill into law. Key wrote it while being held on a British ship, where he saw the US defeat the British in a battle during the War of 1812.

Outbreaks of measles reported

Nearly 100 cases of measles, a contagious respiratory virus, have been reported in two states, with about 90 in Texas and the rest in New Mexico. The outbreaks have concerned health officials because measles can cause serious illness in children but can be prevented with a vaccine (medicine that prevents an illness, above). Communities with lower vaccination rates had the most cases, and additional cases could develop in those areas.

New jazz fellowship announced

The Jazz Foundation of America and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have announced a fellowship to support jazz artists ages 62 and older. Over the next four years, they will award a $100,000 grant to 50 artists. The inaugural class has 20 fellows, including pianist Bertha Hope, age 88, and trumpeter Dizzy Reece, age 94. "It's an incredible and very humbling honor," Hope said.

YouTube marks 20th anniversary

The video-sharing platform YouTube turned 20 years old in February. The first upload in 2005 was a short video of co-founder Jawed Karim visiting the elephants at the San Diego Zoo. The clip has since received more than 350 million views. Today, YouTube is the second most visited website in the world after Google. Its most watched video is "Baby Shark Dance," with more than 15 billion views.

Celebrating 100 years of koala conservation

On February 18, the San Diego Zoo in California announced the public debut of a female joey (baby koala) while celebrating 100 years of koala protection in partnership with the Taronga Conservation Society in Australia. The joey, which turned 7 months old in February, was the first to be born at the zoo in two years.

In 1925, the first two koalas arrived in San Diego as a gift for the city's children from the children of Sydney, Australia. Since then, the San Diego Zoo has cared for the largest population of koalas outside their native home of Australia, where they are classified as endangered in some parts of the country.

Koalas are marsupials, which are mammals that have pouches to carry their young. In the wild, they live in Australia's eucalyptus forests, spending their time high up in the tree's branches and eating mainly eucalyptus leaves. Their numbers have been in decline due to wildfires and droughts (long periods without rain), which have reduced their natural habitats.

The new joey, born to mother Adori, was named Inala, which means "place of peace or rest" in the Wakka Wakka/Jungara area of Queensland, Australia. At birth, joeys are blind, hairless, and the size of a jellybean. They spend the first six to seven months growing inside their mother's pouch. Inala has begun exploring outside her mother's pouch and has been spotted riding on her mom's back and trying tastes of eucalyptus leaves.

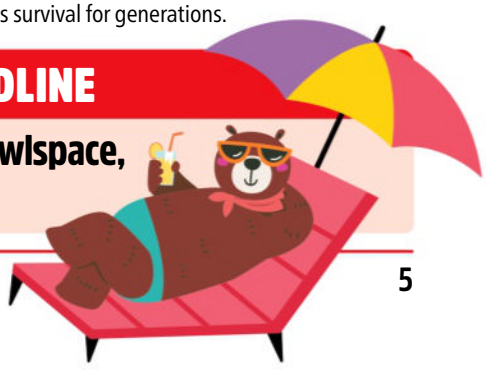
The San Diego Zoo said it will continue to work with the Taronga Conservation Society to study koala populations both at the zoo and in Australia. Its scientists hope to better understand the needs of the species to ensure its survival for generations.

Inala with her mother at the San Diego Zoo

SOUND SLEEPERS
Koalas can doze for up to 20 hours a day because they get very little energy from the eucalyptus leaves they eat.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Bear moves into California crawlspace, relaxes by the pool" *UPI*



SAN DIEGO ZOO; GETTY IMAGES (3); YOUTUBE; ON LEFT PAGE: AP; CORAL CITY WEBCAM; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; GETTY IMAGES

John McFall (right)

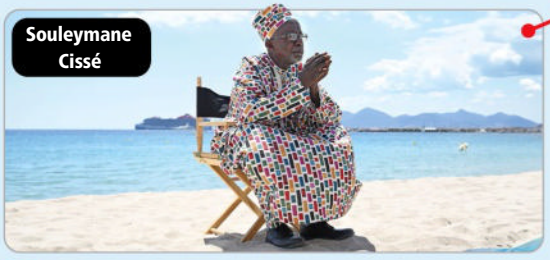
United Kingdom
Disabled astronaut makes history

The European Space Agency has medically approved John McFall for missions to the International Space Station (ISS). McFall, a British surgeon and Paralympic athlete whose right leg was amputated after a motorcycle accident, participated in a study to explore the possibility of sending physically disabled astronauts to space. He would be the first astronaut with a disability to travel to the ISS. McFall said he is "hugely proud."

One of the sinkholes

Buriticupu, Brazil
Emergency declared as sinkholes open

Authorities in Buriticupu have declared a state of emergency after massive sinkholes opened up in the city. Sinkholes form in the ground when rock near the surface dissolves or collapses. The causes include rain that wore away soil over the past 30 years, trees being chopped down, and poorly planned construction work. The holes have destroyed some buildings, and about 1,200 people are at risk of losing their homes if more holes form.


Souleymane Cissé

Bamako, Mali
Tributes paid to film director

Souleymane Cissé, a famous Malian film director, died on February 19 at the age of 84, and people have been paying tribute to his commitment to African storytelling. His film *Yeelen* won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1987, and he won the Golden Carriage award for directors in 2023. Cissé also campaigned for more government funding for Mali's cinemas.

Germany
Election results announced

In national elections on February 23, the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) won the most votes and the far-right Alternative for Germany party came in second place, beating the ruling Social Democrats. CDU/CSU leader Friedrich Merz is expected to become the next chancellor and form a coalition (group of political parties working together).

Friedrich Merz

Venice, Italy
Carnival features eco-friendly elements

On February 22, the Venice Carnival began with an event designed to be environmentally friendly. A papier-mâché rat sculpture led a procession of more than 100 boats along the city's Grand Canal. The procession ended near the famous Rialto Bridge, where the rat released confetti that was biodegradable (breaks down naturally). Prizes were given to the best-decorated boats, and a bee-themed crew won first prize.

Celebrating at the Venice Carnival

ESA; GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY (2); REUTERS (2)

Farmers and the hens

Akaki, Cyprus
Hens help in olive groves

Organic farmers, who don't use artificial chemicals, are getting help from retired hens to boost olive production. The hens aid farmers by eating weeds, flies, and insect larvae. Their poop also nourishes the soil. Hens are often eaten after two years of laying eggs, but the helper birds can expect to live for up to 10 years among the olive trees.

Rason, a tour destination

North Korea
Government relaxes visitor rules

Small numbers of tourists are entering North Korea after the government relaxed its strict rules over visitors. The country shut down its borders during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and kept them closed. Over the past year, it has allowed in some tourists from Russia, which is allied with North Korea. A few tour companies are now bringing in people from other countries, but they're still not allowed to visit the capital, Pyongyang.

Pakistan vs. New Zealand

Karachi, Pakistan
Cricket tournament begins

On February 19, the Champions Trophy cricket tournament began at the National Stadium in Karachi. Cricket is Pakistan's most popular sport, and this is the first time since 1996 that an international cricket tournament has taken place in the country. The Champions Trophy involves eight teams, although India will play its games in the United Arab Emirates after refusing to travel to Pakistan because of security concerns. The final is on March 9.

Leaders of the Democratic Party

Hong Kong
Opposition party disbands

The leaders of the Democratic Party in Hong Kong have decided to shut down its operations. The party was formed in 1994. For years it has opposed China's control over Hong Kong, but recently it has struggled to operate because of laws that punish people for speaking out against China's rule. Party members will vote on the decision to disband at an upcoming meeting.

Manila, Philippines
Paying for mosquitoes

On February 19, a village near Manila introduced a new program to control dengue, an infection that is spread by mosquitoes. People were offered one Philippine peso (about 1.7 cents) for every five mosquitoes they caught. Although it is unclear how effective this method is at fighting dengue, one resident said earning money was "a big help." Others are concerned that the strategy may lead to people farming mosquitoes to make money.

Collecting mosquitoes

Are sandwiches the best lunch?

Some people say they're the best thing since sliced bread, but others disagree.

What you need to know

- **The sandwich is believed to have been named for John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, in the 1700s. He asked his servants to serve meat between slices of bread so he could keep playing cards while he ate.**
- **A survey found that Americans eat an average of six sandwiches per week. And 74% of respondents always keep sandwich ingredients on hand.**
- **Sandwiches are also the top source of salt and unhealthy fats in people's diets, according to research.**

TASTY CHOICES
Surveys have found that America's favorite sandwich is a grilled cheese, followed by a chicken sandwich, then a turkey sandwich.

The sandwich may have been invented in the UK, but Americans have taken the idea of bread and fillings to new heights. In the US, sandwiches range from a simple, quick, and classic peanut butter and jelly to the world's most expensive sandwich—the Quintessential Grilled Cheese at Serendipity 3 restaurant in New York City. The $214 creation is made with champagne bread, edible gold flakes, rare cheese, and truffle butter and served with a lobster dipping sauce. Some people, however, don't like sandwiches, whether they're humble or high-end. They say sandwiches are inconvenient and boring. What do you think? Are sandwiches the best lunch?

Yes—they offer endless variety

Part of the joy of sandwiches is that no two are alike and there are no rules! They can be whatever you want them to be—savory or sweet, vegetarian or meat-filled, healthy or indulgent. You can use different breads, like a baguette or pita, and an endless variety of condiments. Sandwiches are super easy to make and can be very budget-friendly, too, because you only need bread and pretty much any food you have on hand. When you get creative with sandwich making, you can also use up food instead of letting it go to waste.

A sandwich is also practical. You can take it anywhere and eat it on the go, with very little fuss.

No—sandwiches are overrated

Sandwiches are just plain boring. They're on nearly every deli and diner menu, and everyone has made and eaten them many times. That's unoriginal. And despite being thought of as a "grab and go" option, sandwiches aren't always practical either. To make them really tasty, you need to add a lot of ingredients, which can cause them to be so overfilled that they fall apart when you take a bite. Many sandwiches are also packed with salt and fat and just aren't that healthy, especially if you buy them at a deli or restaurant. There are healthier and more adventurous lunches out there, like salads, soups, rice bowls, and sushi.

YES Three reasons sandwiches are the best lunch

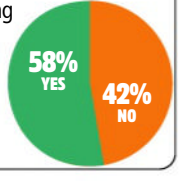
1. **You can personalize sandwiches to your own tastes and change them up constantly, so they're never boring.**
2. **They're simple and inexpensive. And if you use ingredients you already have in the house, you're preventing food waste.**
3. **A sandwich is practical. Just make it, wrap it up, and enjoy it on the go.**

NO Three reasons sandwiches are not the best lunch

1. **Basic, blah, and boring are the perfect adjectives to describe sandwiches. We have had more than enough of them.**
2. **Sandwiches aren't as practical as people think. They can be overfilled and spill out of the bread, making a mess.**
3. **They are often unhealthy, especially if you buy them at a deli or restaurant.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if robots should work in restaurants. More than half of you voted in favor of having machines cook, carry, and clear your food.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think sandwiches are the best lunch or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Comedy star in the spotlight

Conan O'Brien is being honored for a career spent making people laugh.

The year is already shaping up to be a big one for comedian and former late-night host Conan O'Brien. He will be hosting the 97th Academy Awards (also known as the Oscars, a top film award) on March 2 and is also the 2025 recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, one of the most prestigious honors in comedy.

Late Night with Conan O'Brien

O'Brien, age 61, grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, as one of six children. His first audience was his family. He entertained them with tap dances and impressions of silent film star Charlie Chaplin. He studied history and literature at Harvard University, where he wrote for *The Harvard Lampoon*, a famous humor magazine.

After college, O'Brien wrote for *Saturday Night Live* and *The Simpsons*. Inspired by late-night legends like Johnny Carson and Bob Hope, whom he enjoyed watching as a child, he began working in late-night TV. He hosted *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* for 16 years on NBC (1993–2009) and *Conan* for 11 years on TBS (2010–2021).

The Mark Twain Prize, established in 1998, is named after the famous 19th-century author who—in addition to writing the classic novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—was also a humorist. The prize honors people who have made a lasting impact on American culture through comedy. Past winners include Adam Sandler and Tina Fey. The announcement naming O'Brien as this year's winner called him "a master of invention and reinvention."

Amid speculation about how he will handle his Oscars hosting role, O'Brien has kept his plans under wraps. "I'm going to give it my best shot," he said.

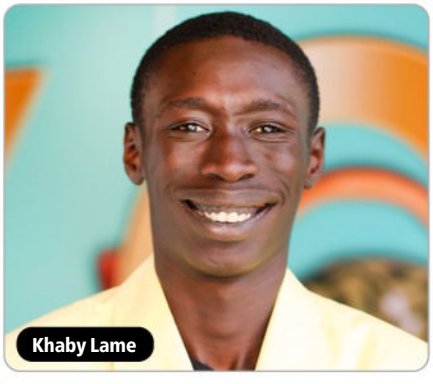
Conan O'Brien

HUMOR HISTORY

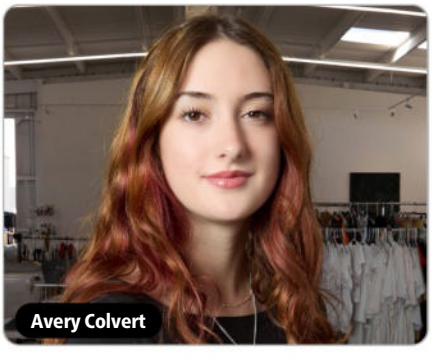
The first-ever comedy routine on television was performed by Milton Berle on the variety series *The Texaco Star Theater* in 1948.

Sharing his message

Social media personality Khaby Lame, the world's most popular TikToker with more than 162 million followers, has been named a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. Lame, age 24, was born in Senegal and moved to Italy at age 2. His account silently mocks complicated "life hack" videos. As ambassador, he will use his platform to advocate for children's rights and shine a spotlight on education and inequality worldwide, especially in Senegal. "All children can thrive when they are given a chance and opportunity," Lame said.



Khaby Lame



Avery Colvert

Teen steps in to help

When wildfires devastated Los Angeles in January, 14-year-old Avery Colvert, a resident of the city, created the Altadena Girls recovery fund for teens affected by the fires. After seeing many of her friends lose their homes and belongings, she made an Instagram account to gather donations of clothing, beauty products, and other personal items. The fund quickly went viral, with support from celebrities like singer Charli XCX, and donations flooded in from individuals and brands. Colvert hopes to keep the fund going. She told CBS News, "This is just...the beginning."

OVERHEARD

"You can do it. Anything is possible."

Rapper and singer Doechii, age 26, who won the 2025 Grammy for Best Rap Album, becoming the third female artist to do so

TEAM COCO; GETTY IMAGES (3); ANTHONY DEAN VALENTINO

The large cat's population and range are growing.

CAT FACT
Amur tigers, which live in Russia, China, and North Korea, are the biggest and heaviest of all cats.

A rare tiger cub trio

Rangers in Thailand's Kaeng Krachan National Park have spotted a wild tiger walking around with three cubs. The park said they are Bengal tigers, of which about 2,500 remain in the wild worldwide, and this is the first time one has been seen raising three cubs in the park.

Tiger cubs

Tigers make big strides in India

The population of tigers in India has doubled over a period of 12 years, according to government data. The big cats' numbers increased from 1,706 tigers in 2010 to 3,682 in 2022. This means that about 75% of the world's tigers now live in the country.

Tigers once lived across much of Asia, but in the past 100 years, the big cats' range has been reduced by 93% because of poaching (illegal hunting), loss of habitat, and declines in their prey. Today, the animals are scattered across 13 countries, from Russia to Indonesia. They are endangered, and three subspecies—Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers—are extinct.

Tourists watch a tiger at a reserve.

In India, tigers have disappeared from some areas as humans have destroyed forests and other natural lands in order to build cities, homes, and farms. Today, tigers in India share 45% of their habitat with about 60 million people. This has brought the animals closer to human settlements in search of food, which has led to conflict between the people and the big cats.

Since 1973, the Indian government has been working to save the animals through an initiative called Project Tiger. It has created strong anti-poaching laws and expanded tiger reserves from nine to more than 50 protected areas throughout the country.

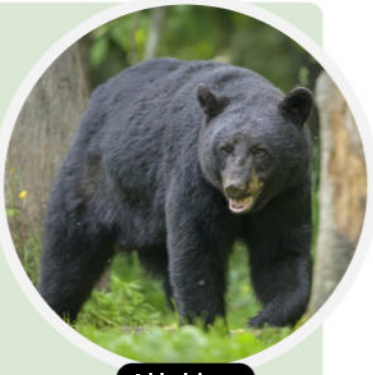
Conservation organizations have also been working to protect habitats, support tiger populations, and help people live peacefully alongside tigers. This includes educating residents about the animals and providing relief funds to farmers whose animals are killed by the big cats. Experts have observed that since 2006, the tigers' range has expanded by about 30%. It now covers about 53,359 square miles, approximately the size of New York state.

Researchers said the results showed that conservation can benefit both animals and people and that the two can coexist successfully even when they live close together. "What the research shows is that it's not the human density, but the attitude of people, which matters more," Yadvendradev V. Jhala, the study's lead author, told the Associated Press.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico

People observe a traditional way of life in Acoma Pueblo, a Native American village and National Historic Landmark. The village is located on a steep cliff in the desert, where the sun shines nearly every day of the year. People from the Acoma tribe settled in New Mexico more than 1,000 years ago, and it is one of the longest continuously inhabited communities in North America. The village is made up of four different communities: Sky City, Acomita, Anzac, and McCartys. Wildlife including mountain lions, black bears, elk, and pronghorn live around the area.


A black bear

WOW! When food is in short supply in the winter, some shrews can shrink their brains and skulls to save energy.

One of the first photos of a Mount Lyell shrew

Elusive shrew photographed

The Mount Lyell shrew—a tiny mammal less than 4 inches long and weighing under half a pound—has finally been photographed. Two researchers and a photographer worked around the clock for three days in California's Sierra Nevada mountains to snap the first-ever photos of the mole-like creature.

The Mount Lyell shrew was discovered in 1902, but until now it was the only known mammal in California that had never been photographed alive. To capture the elusive creature, the wildlife enthusiasts set out 150 traps filled with cat food and mealworms, which the shrews eat. They monitored the traps consistently, including through the night.

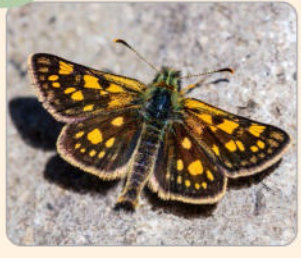
The researchers were surprised to find a Mount Lyell shrew in one of their traps within two hours. They ended up trapping and photographing five shrews, which wasn't easy because the shrews are venomous and like to bite. The team said they hope their photos will bring awareness to this "underappreciated species," whose habitat is threatened by climate change.

Animal of the week: Swell shark

A shark egg hatched at Louisiana's Shreveport Aquarium after it was found in a tank containing two female swell sharks and no males. Scientists think a female might have reproduced without a male or stored a sperm cell in her body for years.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 to 35 years
- **HABITAT:** The Pacific Ocean, 16 to 121 feet deep
- **SIZE:** 32 to 43 inches long
- **DIET:** Mainly fish, mollusks, and crustaceans
- **FUN FACT:** Empty swell shark egg capsules are sometimes called "mermaid's purses."

Good week / Bad week



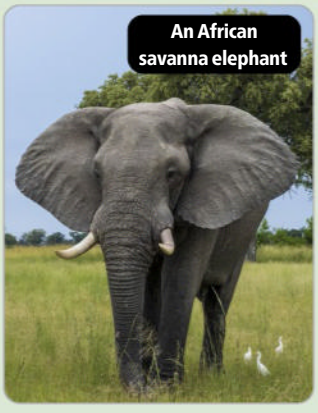
Checkered skipper butterflies
This species of butterfly was successfully reintroduced in England, where it went extinct in 1976. Experts started bringing the butterflies from Belgium in 2018. They have been breeding, and now more than 350 live in England.

Green sea turtles
A total of 17 green sea turtles had to be rescued off the coast of Florida after frigid water temperatures made them unable to swim. The turtles were brought to a local wildlife center, which said it would release them after a few weeks.

Ask an expert

"What is the difference between an African elephant and other elephants?" Shivnandan, 9, Texas

Mollye Nardi
General curator, Birmingham Zoo



An African savanna elephant

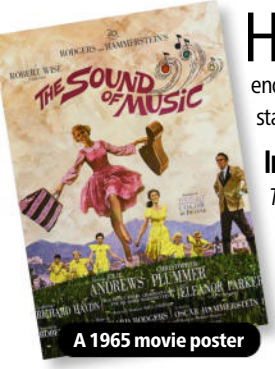
African elephants have much bigger ears that are shaped like the continent of Africa. They also look like they have two fingers at the end of their trunk, while Asian elephants have one. The only Asian elephants that have tusks are males, but male *and* female African elephants have tusks.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Birmingham Zoo at birminghamzoo.com.

COURTESY OF SUBRAMANYAN, JAIN, AND FORBES; GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

A classic film beloved

The Sound of Music is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.



A 1965 movie poster

How did *The Sound of Music* become one of the most enduring films of all time? Let's start at the very beginning.

Inspired by a true story

The Sound of Music is based on a 1949 memoir *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp, the "real" Maria who is played by Julie Andrews in the film. Set in Austria in 1938, before World War II (1939–1945), *The Sound of Music* tells the story of a free-spirited aspiring nun who takes a job as a governess for a family with a strict widower father, Captain von Trapp (played by Christopher Plummer), and his seven children. Maria teaches the children to sing, leading them in songs like "Do-Re-Mi," and falls in love with the captain. Meanwhile, their nation faces Nazi occupation. The film premiered in the US on March 2, 1965.

The famous puppet scene

Little-known facts about the film

Andrews almost turned down the role of Maria because she had just played a governess in another movie, *Mary Poppins*. A helicopter was used to film the opening scene of Andrews singing and twirling in the hills, and its forceful winds knocked her down. In an early scene, the real Maria made a cameo. One of the sons, "Friedrich," wore heel lifts to appear taller than a younger movie sibling but grew six inches during filming. For the "Lonely Goatherd" scene, puppeteers off camera brought the marionettes to life.

DID YOU KNOW?
Other titles once considered for The Sound of Music were The Singing Heart and Love Song.

ON THE STAGE
Before it was a movie, The Sound of Music was a Broadway show that won five Tony awards, including Best Musical.

Julie Andrews (above) in the movie's opening scene and at right (from top to bottom) with the von Trapp children; in the abbey; with Captain von Trapp; and hiding from the Nazis

The real von Trapp family singers

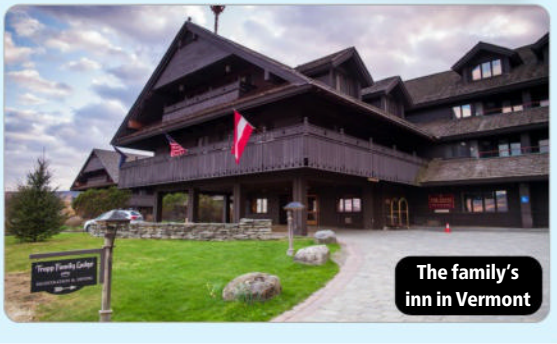
Like the family in the movie, the real von Trapps escaped Austria before World War II. While their counterparts on screen fled over the mountains, however, the real von Trapps left by train to Italy. They eventually made their way to the US. There they toured as the Trapp Family Singers and sang Austrian folk songs. In the early 1940s, the family settled in Stowe, Vermont, where the mountains reminded them of their beloved Austria. In 1950, they opened the Trapp Family Lodge, an Austrian-inspired hotel. It was rebuilt in 1983 and is still in operation today.

The von Trapp family

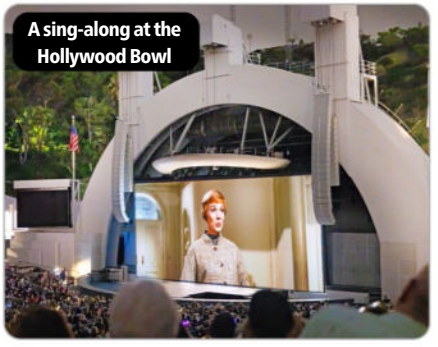
ALAMY (7); ELIZABETH ASHER; GETTY IMAGES (2)

by generations

TOP HONORS
Director Robert Wise won the Academy Award for Best Director for *West Side Story* in 1961 and for *The Sound of Music* in 1966.



The family's inn in Vermont



A sing-along at the Hollywood Bowl

A cultural phenomenon

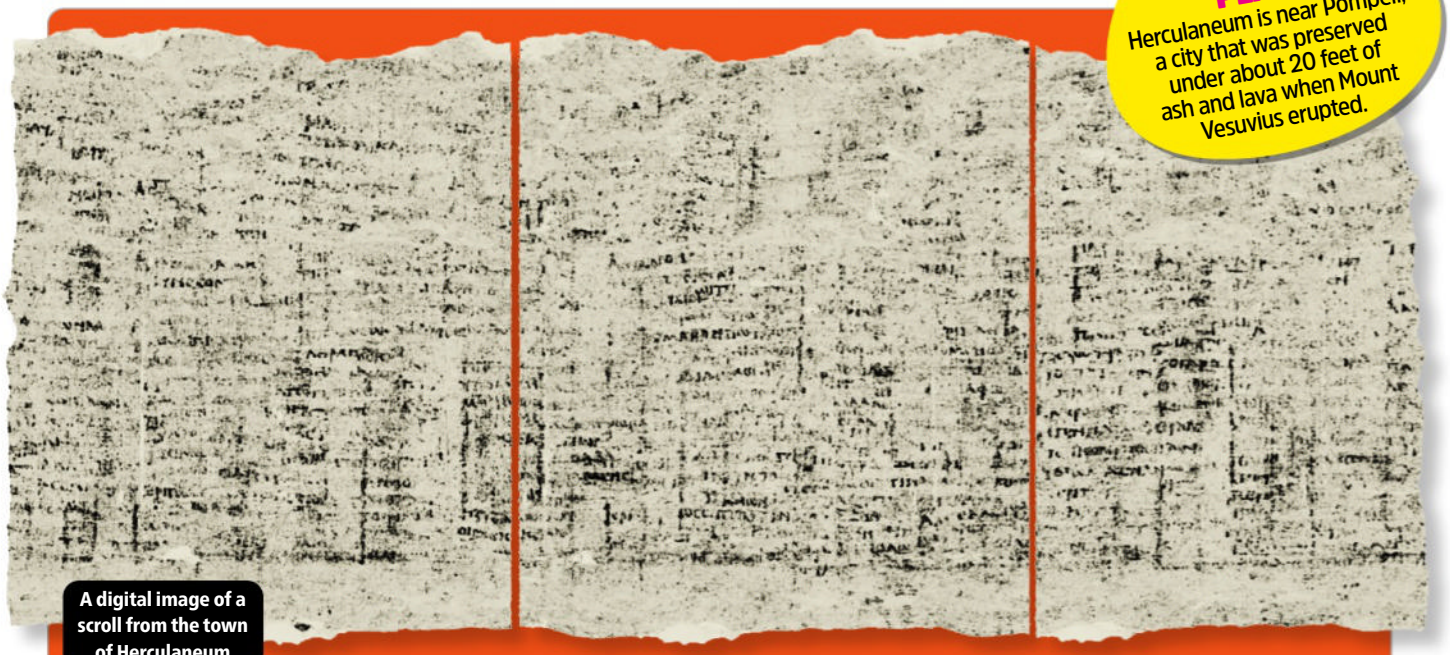
In 1966, the movie was nominated for 10 Academy Awards (the most prestigious award in the film industry) and won five, including Best Picture. But it was not an immediate success with critics. Many felt it was too simplistic and sugar-coated in its depiction of the complexities of World War II. Audiences loved the movie, however, and made it the highest-grossing film to that date in history. In 2001, the Library of Congress added it to the National Film Registry for its cultural and historical significance. Since 1979, *The Sound of Music* has been broadcast on TV every year. For the past two decades, the Hollywood Bowl in California has hosted a costume contest and a sing-along movie screening for about 18,000 people.

A flash mob performs "Do-Re-Mi."

Celebrating an anniversary

Much of *The Sound of Music* was filmed in Salzburg, Austria, which receives about 3 million visitors every year, many of whom come to see the sites where the movie was filmed. (Scenes were also filmed in Los Angeles, California.) This year, the city is hosting celebrations to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the film, including flash mobs, seminars, and a "captain's ball" that will re-create a dance in the movie. There will be an exhibit on the film's costumes and a gala dinner attended by descendants of the von Trapp family. A music special will feature new arrangements of the famous songs originated by the songwriting team Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The performers include Pentatonix and Thalía.

FAMOUS PLACE
Herculaneum is near Pompeii, a city that was preserved under about 20 feet of ash and lava when Mount Vesuvius erupted.



A digital image of a scroll from the town of Herculaneum

"Unwrapping" an ancient scroll

Technology is helping researchers read an ancient scroll that was scorched in a volcanic eruption in Italy 2,000 years ago. The document is one of hundreds of rolled-up scrolls found in the ruins of Herculaneum. The town was buried under more than 60 feet of lava and ash when a nearby volcano, Mount Vesuvius, erupted in the year 79.

The scroll has been kept at the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford in the UK. It was made from a thick, paper-like material called papyrus and would have been 33 feet long when unrolled. It was burned into what looks like a lump of charcoal and is now too fragile to open. Researchers have attempted to open burned scrolls in the past, only to have them crumble into pieces.

The burned scroll

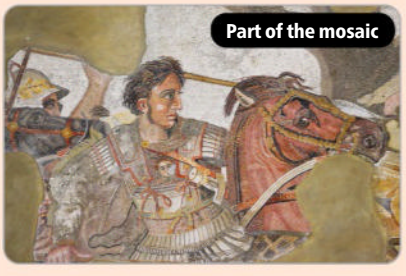
In 2023, the Vesuvius Challenge was launched. Created by tech industry leaders, the competition offers prizes to people who can "read" Herculaneum scrolls using artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) and other techniques.

One Vesuvius Challenge team is working to digitally "unwrap" the Bodleian scroll. To do this, they placed it in a machine called a synchrotron. The device emits a powerful x-ray beam that makes it possible to view objects that are only a few thousandths of a millimeter in size. This technology enabled the researchers to examine the scroll without damaging it.

The synchrotron was used to create a digital 3D reconstruction of the document, and AI was used to detect ink on the papyrus. So far, the team has counted 26 lines of text and made out the word "disgust" written in ancient Greek. The next step will be to "unroll" all the layers inside the scroll so the AI can detect more letters and words.

In February 2024, another Vesuvius Challenge team read 5% of a different scroll and found that the subject was Greek philosophy. The Bodleian scroll is likely to include similar content. The researchers are excited to uncover the text and learn more about the people who created it. "I just love that connection with whoever collected them, whoever wrote them, whoever rolled those scrolls up and put them on the shelves," Nicole Gilroy, head of book conservation at the Bodleian, told BBC news.

Famous mosaic revealed



Part of the mosaic

Researchers in Italy are learning about the ancient Roman empire through the study of a famous artwork depicting Alexander the Great. Alexander was a king and military genius and one of history's greatest conquerors. The art, known as a mosaic, is 2,000 years old and was rescued from the floor of a mansion in the ruins of Pompeii. It is made up of about 2 million pieces of stone, ceramic, and glass.

The National Archaeological Museum of Naples began a restoration and analysis of the Alexander mosaic in 2020. Among other facts, they have learned that stones in the piece came from across Europe and North Africa. Experts believe the mosaic depicts the Battle of Issus in 333 BCE, when Alexander, shown holding a long spear, conquered a Persian army.

The surprising secret of polar bear fur

Despite living in the Arctic, where temperatures hit -40° F, polar bears stay warm thanks to their blubber (fat) and thick fur. Those layers keep heat in and cold out. But scientists have found that polar bear fur provides more than insulation. It also contains oil that prevents ice from building up at all.

At first the researchers thought the structure of polar bear fur was what kept ice from sticking to it, but when they examined the fur under a microscope, they realized that wasn't the case. They noticed something else, however: The fur was very oily. The team suspected that could be what prevented the fur from freezing.

To test their theory, they froze blocks of ice onto washed and unwashed polar bear fur, human hair, and ski equipment, which is coated with chemicals that reduce friction. Then they determined how much force was needed to remove the ice from each of these materials.

Ice was easily removed from the unwashed, greasy polar bear fur and the ski equipment. It was harder to remove from the human hair and about four times harder to remove from the washed fur.

After confirming why the ice wasn't sticking, the team carefully analyzed the oil itself. They found that it was full of chemicals that repel ice. The study's authors hope the findings will lead to the creation of materials that don't get icy. Currently, some of the chemicals used to keep skis ice-free are harmful to the environment.

BIG AND HUNGRY
Adult polar bears are about 7 to 8 feet long and are the biggest meat-eating land mammals on the planet.

Fat and fur keep polar bears warm.

Making the perfect egg can be tricky.

Study finds best way to boil eggs

Scientists in Italy cracked the mystery of boiling the perfect egg. The two parts of an egg—the yolk and the white—need to be cooked at different temperatures. The team wanted to figure out how to prepare the whole egg without over- or undercooking either part.

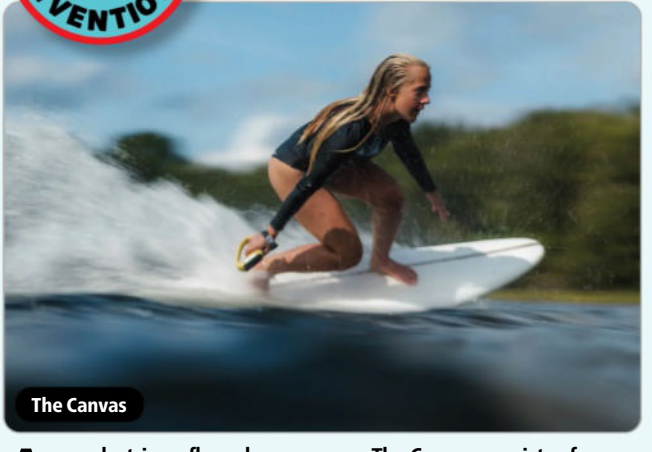
First they cooked the eggs virtually, using computer simulations with various combinations of temperature and time. Next they attempted to cook them in real life.

After a few months, the team finalized the "periodic cooking" method, which takes 32 minutes. Every two minutes, eggs are moved from a pot of boiling water kept at 212° F to a bowl of water that is 86° F. The result is a perfectly cooked egg that hasn't lost any nutritional value.

The team wrote in their study, "Knowledge of the science behind simple problems can improve even the slightest bits of our daily life, like the simple act of eating an egg."

AMAZING INVENTION

An electric surfboard that comes apart


The Canvas

A new electric surfboard lets people hit the water whenever and wherever they want, even when there are no waves. The Canvas can carry surfers over flat water at up to 37 miles per hour. It's controlled by a wireless remote that the rider holds in their hand.

The Canvas consists of a board, battery, and propulsion system. Its designers said it takes 15 seconds to put together and can be broken down just as quickly. The lightweight board is easy to carry under the arm, while the rest gets tucked into a backpack for transporting.

GETTY IMAGES (2); LIND; ON LEFT PAGE: VESUVIUS CHALLENGE; BODLEIAN LIBRARY; GETTY IMAGES

Photos of the week

Color block
A visitor in Vietnam passes through a field of drying incense sticks.

Ornate outfit
A dancer participates in a parade during a festival in Sri Lanka.

GETTY IMAGES (2); MAKAYLA

Photos of the week

Night lights
In China, tourists walk under colorful lanterns celebrating Lunar New Year.

Stunning scene
A work by an Indigenous artist lights up the sails of the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Frigid photo
An ice climber scales a frozen waterfall in a national park in the UK.

In full bloom
Makayla, 14, of California snapped this photo while on vacation in Hawaii.

READER PHOTO

GOING FOR GOLD
In 2026, NHL players will be allowed to compete on Olympic hockey teams for the first time since 2014.

Canada's Sidney Crosby (left) and Matthew Tkachuk of the US

Tournament to return

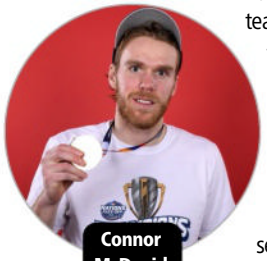
WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY 2028

The NHL and NHLPA announced that the World Cup of Hockey, last held in 2016, will return as an in-season tournament in 2028. At least eight teams from Europe and North America will compete. The goal is to have a World Cup every two years, alternating with the Olympics.

Thrilling end to 4 Nations Face-Off

From February 12 to February 20, hockey teams made up of NHL (National Hockey League) players representing the US, Canada, Finland, and Sweden competed in the first 4 Nations Face-Off tournament. The US and Canada, longtime rivals, made it to the final, which was held at TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts. It was a thrilling and dramatic game that went to overtime, where Canada won, 3–2.

The 4 Nations Face-Off was created by the National Hockey League (NHL) and the NHL Players' Association (NHLPA) to replace this year's NHL All-Star Game. Because players represented their native countries, the competitions were more meaningful and intense than an exhibition-style All-Star game. The tournament was a hit among players and fans.



Connor McDavid

The competition followed a round-robin format, with each team playing every other team once and the top two making the final. In the first match between the US and Canada, which took place in Montreal, Canada, on February 15, the US won, 3–1. The US was the top team after the round robin. Sweden and Canada were tied for second, and Canada made the final due to tie-break rules.

The championship game was a closely contested battle. Nathan MacKinnon of Canada opened the scoring after less than five minutes of play. Brady Tkachuk of the US tied things up with a few minutes left in the first period, after receiving a pass from Auston Matthews. The US grabbed the lead in the middle of the second period thanks to a goal by Jake Sanderson. A little more than six minutes later, Canada evened the score. Neither team was able to break the tie in the third period, sending the game to a sudden-death overtime, where the first team to score would win.

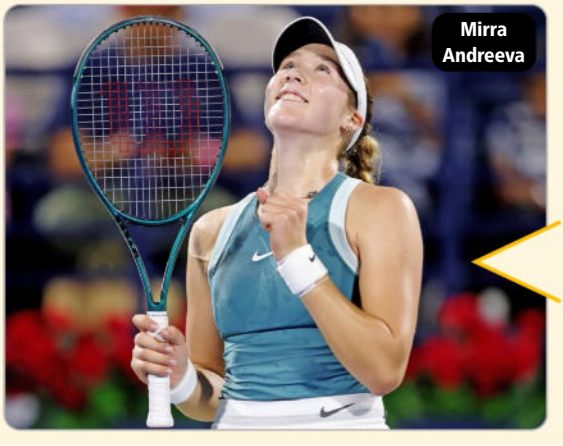
The US generated several scoring chances in the extra period, but Canadian goaltender Jordan Binnington made six key saves. After just over eight minutes of play, Canadian star Connor McDavid scored the game winner. Afterward, he was named Player of the Game.

MacKinnon, who led all competitors in the tournament with four goals in four games, was named Most Valuable Player.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

SOCCER

Major League Soccer (MLS) began its 30th season on February 22 and welcomed a new franchise, the San Diego FC, to the Western Conference. There are now 30 clubs in the league. On February 23, San Diego played its first match, going up against MLS defending champions the LA Galaxy at the Galaxy's home stadium. In a shocking upset, San Diego won, 2–0. Anders Dreyer scored both goals.



Mirra Andreeva

BASKETBALL

In his first big performance since being traded to the LA Lakers, Luka Doncic had 32 points, 10 rebounds, 7 assists, and 4 steals in a 123–100 win over the Denver Nuggets on February 22.

TENNIS

Russian player Mirra Andreeva, age 17, won the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on February 22. She is the youngest champion ever to win a WTA 1000 tournament, the biggest competitions outside Grand Slams.

Mikaela Shiffrin

EXTRA TALENTED In her free time, Mikaela Shiffrin plays the piano and the guitar.

Star skier wins 100th World Cup race

On February 23, US skier Mikaela Shiffrin reached a historic milestone during an event in Sestriere, Italy. She won the women's slalom event, which was her 100th Alpine Skiing World Cup victory. She already holds the record for being the alpine (downhill) skier with the most World Cup wins, male or female. By finishing in the top three, she also made a World Cup podium for the 155th time, which puts her in a tie with legendary Swedish skier Ingemar Stenmark for the most World Cup top-three finishes by a male or female.

Shiffrin, age 29, began racing in World Cups in 2011, a day before she turned 16. Most of her wins have been in slalom races, which involve weaving through closely spaced poles, but she has also won in five other Alpine events, something no other skier has done. In March 2023, she won her 87th World Cup race, breaking Stenmark's long-standing record for most World Cup victories.

The journey to 100 wins was not easy. Last fall, after picking up her 99th win, Shiffrin crashed in a race and underwent surgery. She returned to action in January and earned her 15th career world championship medal, a gold in the new women's team combined event, on February 11.

In Sestriere on February 22, Shriffrin competed in the first run of the giant slalom event but did not qualify for a second run. In the slalom, she beat Zrinka Ljutic of Croatia, who came in second, and Paula Moltzan of the US, who placed third.

Only three other athletes in the entire sport of skiing have 100 or more World Cup wins: Amelie Wenger-Reymond (telemark), Marit Bjorgen (cross-country), and Conny Kissling (freestyle).

COACH OF THE WEEK

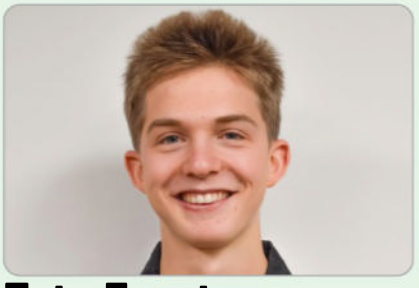
Coach's Name: **Morah Isabelle**

School: **Politz Day School**

"She has a smile as bright as the sun. She loves to run and make others laugh and hates to be mean. She is sweet and calm even though my class is a pain. She makes up fun games and makes existing ones more fun. She makes us happy even if something sad happens, and she is very fair. She helps me with my reflexes so I can run fast and never says, 'You did it wrong.' She says, 'You did it well, and I know you can do it better.' " Amelia, 11, New Jersey

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

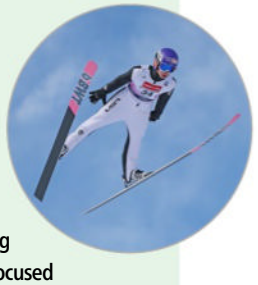
SPOTLIGHT ON...



Tate Frantz

AGE: 19 SPORT: SKI JUMPING
TEAM: USA

Cool start I grew up in Lake Placid, New York. I've cross-country skied since I could walk. When I was 9, I got to try ski jumping in an after-school program. I was always on my alpine skis and cross-country skis and building jumps and trying to catch air, so it was hard to say no to the sport. My favorite thing is the feeling of flying. In the air, it's like you're in slow motion.



Big change I used to compete in Nordic combined, a sport that combines cross-country skiing and ski jumping into one event. I did that until I was 15, but I had to stop skiing because of knee problems. I focused on ski jumping alone and had some really good success. I'm proud of the way I took a negative situation and found the positive.

Workout plan We train pretty much seven days a week, one or two times a day. I'm only out on the hill for one session twice a week. I do about five or six jumps, and it may take two hours. Most of my training happens in the gym. We do technique imitations on a moving roller board.

Getting better I'm jumping quite well right now, and I'm in the Top 20 in the World Cup, but I'm the second youngest out there. Although I might be beating guys older than me, I think I still have a lot to learn from everyone regardless of the results.

High hopes Last year, I got my first podium at a Grand Prix, which is like the World Cup during the summer months. It was unexpected and a really big moment. I'd love to get my first World Cup podium and, one day, an Olympic medal.

GETTY IMAGES (2); USASKIJUMPING.COM; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); NHL

Ryoji Ikeda: data-verse

New immersive art exhibition

A museum in Atlanta is showcasing works by Ryoji Ikeda that combine, light, sound, and scientific data.

Ryoji Ikeda is a leading electronic composer and visual artist known for using scientific data in his art. His work has been seen and heard around the world, and now several pieces will be on display in *Ryoji Ikeda: data-verse*, which opens at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 7. The exhibition includes large light and sound installations that are being shown in the US for the first time.

Ikeda was born in Gifu, Japan, and now lives and works in Kyoto, Japan, and Paris, France. Michael Rooks, the curator (person who chooses art) at the High who worked on the exhibition, told *The Week Junior* that Ikeda's visual art has minimal images but is "bold and striking." Some of his pieces incorporate images taken from data sets from organizations such as NASA (the US space agency) and CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research). Rooks said that one question Ikeda's work pushes people to ask is, "What are the limits of human knowledge?"

Ryoji Ikeda

The centerpiece of the show is *data-verse*, which is projected onto three 17-foot-high screens and extends more than 75 feet across. The images include maps of the universe and sequences of DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing). There are also two-dimensional works that are related to the ideas and images in the large-scale installations.

The High hopes young visitors will leave thinking about "the digitalization of our society," Rooks said. "We also hope Ikeda's work will inspire young artists to think outside the box of conventional art forms, subjects, and materials."

3 more exhibitions to see

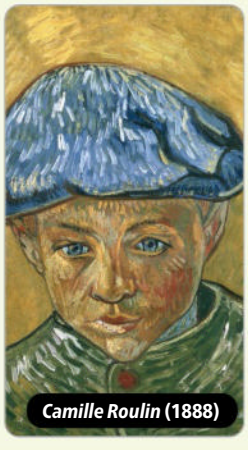
Picasso and Paper

Nearly 300 works by the famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso are showcased in this exhibition at the Cleveland Museum of Art, which runs through March 23.

Violin (1912)

Van Gogh: The Roulin Family Portraits

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston will showcase about 20 portraits that French artist Vincent van Gogh painted of a postman and his family. It opens March 30.

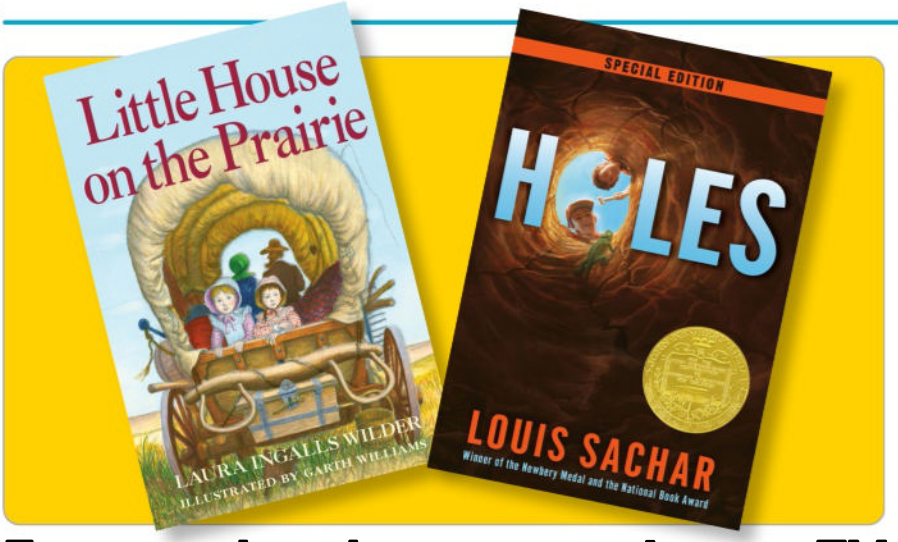

Camille Roulin (1888)

Amy Sherald: American Sublime

Included in an exhibit of Amy Sherald's work at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City is her portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama. The show starts on April 9.

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama (2018)

DAVID STIERNHOLM, COMMISSIONED BY AUDEMARS PIGUET CONTEMPORARY; GETTY IMAGES; RMN-GRAND PALAIS (MUSÉE NATIONAL PICASSO-PARIS)/MATHIEU RABEAU AND 2024 ESTATE OF PABLO PICASSO/ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK; SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY; MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON



Famous books are coming to TV

Two streaming platforms recently announced they will be "reimagining" popular books for TV. Disney+ is making a show based on Louis Sachar's novel *Holes*, and Netflix is creating a series based on the *Little House on the Prairie* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Holes, published in 1998, follows 14-year-old Stanley Yelnats, who is wrongfully sent to a work camp for teen boys. While there, he uncovers secrets about his family history and the camp warden's activities. The book was adapted into a 2003 film.

In the TV version of *Holes*, the main character will be a girl. So far, Disney+ has ordered a pilot (first) episode, with the potential for a full series to follow. The show's executive producer, Drew Goddard, told *Variety* he was first introduced to the book by his mother, a teacher, in the late 1990s. He said that at the time, she "was positive it was going to be a phenomenon," he said.

The *Little House* books, meanwhile, have been engaging readers since the 1930s. They are based on Wilder's childhood in the late-1800s American Midwest. The first TV adaptation of *Little House* aired from 1974 to 1983, and those episodes are now on Peacock and other apps.

Some longtime fans are upset that there will be a new version, but several of the original stars support it, including Melissa Gilbert, who played the main character Laura. She said Netflix has the opportunity to improve on the original show's casting by working with more Native American and Black actors. She also believes it's fine for other people to interpret Wilder's books: "There's room in the *Little House* universe for all different kinds of stories to be told."

FUN FACT
Scenes for the first Little House on the Prairie TV series were filmed at the Big Sky Movie Ranch in California.

READER RECOMMENDS

Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank *PG*

(Available on all major platforms)

"This really funny movie is about Hank, a dog who moves to the cat-filled town of Kakamucho. Hank dreams of becoming a samurai, a skilled warrior. Kakamucho is threatened by evil cat Ika Chu, who wants to destroy the town and become its leader. After the town's samurai is injured, Hank is chosen to take his place. Because Hank is a dog, everyone doubts his abilities, so he must prove he's strong enough to defeat Ika. The movie has funny Star Wars and Pokémon references and teaches about not judging a book by its cover." Arjun, 11, Washington

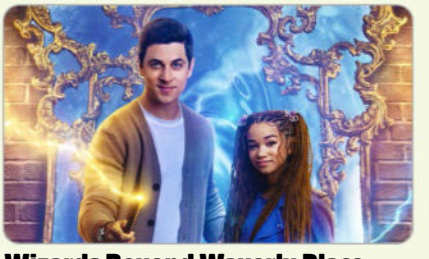
Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Next Level Chef

(Fox) Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay hosts this cooking competition series set in a three-level kitchen. Season four challenges groups of home chefs, social media cooks, and pros to impress the judges and avoid being moved down to kitchens with tougher conditions.



Wizards Beyond Waverly Place

(Disney+)

There are new episodes of the *Wizards of Waverly Place* reboot, which follows a wizard dad, Justin, as he mentors Billie, a young wizard-in-training. As secrets about her past emerge, she must navigate a dangerous prophecy along with school and friendships.

Incredible Northern Vets

(Disney+) (National Geographic)

Follow three Indigenous (first to inhabit a place) veterinarians in Canada as they care for big and small animals in this new documentary series. The vets use treatments such as behavior therapy to keep pets healthy and strengthen their bonds with their owners.

COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; PARAMOUNT+; FOX MEDIA LLC; DISNEY (2)

Hello Kitty Island Adventure

Restore an island with Hello Kitty

Hello Kitty Island Adventure is a cozy platform puzzle game that was recently released for the Nintendo Switch and PC. It will be out later this year for the PlayStation 4 and 5. It was originally released for Apple devices in 2023 and won the Apple Arcade Game of the Year at the App Store Awards.

Hello Kitty was created by the Japanese company Sanrio in 1974. Despite her name and appearance, she is a little girl, not a cat. In Hello Kitty Island Adventure, she and her pals discover an abandoned island and have to bring it back to its original glory. The game features more than 40 different characters from the Sanrio world, including popular Cinnamoroll, My Melody, and Keroppi. Nuls, which are new blob-like creatures, help around the island too.

All the characters have a different personality and special skills, and they can contribute to the island in their own ways. For example, Hello Kitty wants to open a bakery, Keroppi loves nature and taking care of animals, and stylish Tuxedosam has a clothing store. Every character likes different gifts, which help in building friendships.

Hello Kitty

The game, which has solo and multiplayer modes, is similar to Animal Crossing. There are two main ways to play it: The cozy way includes taking it easy, meeting new friends, celebrating holidays, and slowly designing your dream home. If you like more action, you can dive into work crafting and selling items, solving puzzles, and exploring the island's mystery. There are eight regions on the island, such as Spooky Swamp and Rainbow Reef. You can unlock access to them by completing different quests.

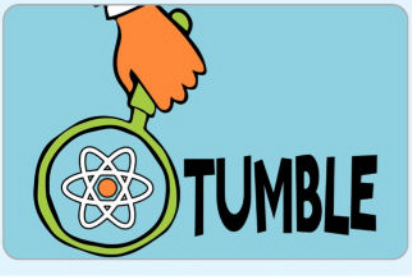
Hello Kitty Island Adventure is continually being updated, so more areas and characters will be added in the coming months.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

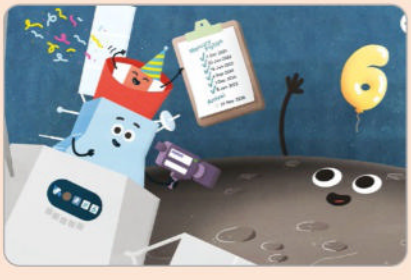
TUMBLE SCIENCE

Major podcast platforms

This podcast explores nature and goes inside labs to discover surprising and bizarre scientific facts. Episodes cover topics that include axolotls' native habitats in Mexico, how bubbles work, and even how Taylor Swift fans created a type of earthquake at one of her concerts.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



BEPICOLOMBO

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-BepiColombo

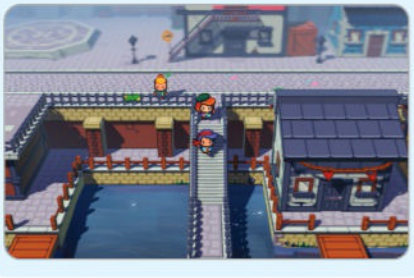
The European and Japanese space agencies teamed up on BepiColombo, a space mission that is trying to discover the secrets of the planet Mercury. It has two spacecraft and one transfer module. On this website, you can follow the journey and see images from flybys.

APP OF THE WEEK

CASSETTE BEASTS

Apple App Store, Google Play

Fans of Pokémon may love this monster-catching role-playing game. Your task is to find your way home from an island by spotting monsters and gaining their powers using cassette tapes (devices that store sound recordings). You can also create your own characters.



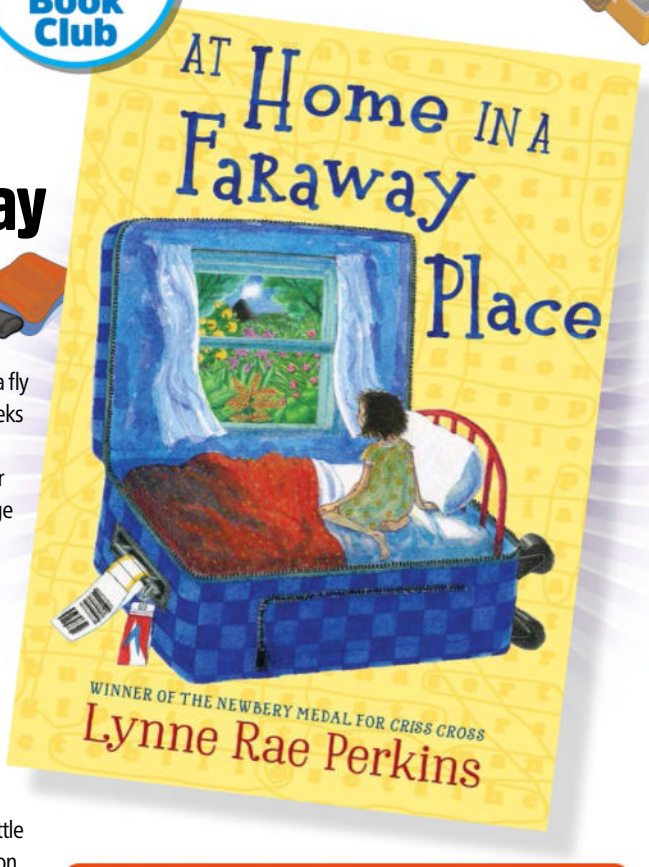
NINTENDO (2); TUMBLE MEDIA PRODUCTION; EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY; NINTENDO

OUR BOOK CLUB PICK FOR MARCH

At Home in a Faraway Place

By Lynne Rae Perkins

(Greenwillow)



Lissie and her dad and grandma fly to Guatemala to spend two weeks with Raúl, her dad's friend from high school. Although her father is fluent in Spanish, the language spoken in the Central American country, Lissie knows only a few words. Her dad assures her she'll pick up the language. On one of the first days, Raúl takes them to a volcano and waterfalls. When they go back to Raúl's house, his girlfriend and her children are there. Her daughter, Flory, is a little older than Lissie. They play Simon Says (which they call Simon Dice) and soccer. Later, they make friendship bracelets and explore a black-sand beach. Lissie's knowledge of Spanish grows, and she is surprised by how much she connects with others despite the language barrier. Visiting a Mayan pyramid cements the connection Lissie feels to Guatemala. Exquisite illustrations, including drawings of Spanish words, are sprinkled throughout the story.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *At Home in a Faraway Place*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Faraway Place in the subject line. Enter by midnight on March 21. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Thanks to vivid details about Guatemala's culture, *At Home in a Faraway Place* may make you want to explore another country. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

How does Lissie realize that words aren't always necessary to communicate?

Do you think Lissie and Flory will remain friends after the trip? Why or why not?

How do the book's illustrations help tell the story?

In what way does Lissie grow more confident as the trip progresses?

What adjectives would you say best describe the story's setting?

What part of the trip did you enjoy reading about the most?

What part of the world would you like to visit?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a video Lynne Rae Perkins created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

Lynne Rae Perkins won the Newbery Medal in 2006 for *Criss Cross*, a novel about a group of teenagers who are trying to find themselves in their small Midwestern town. Her latest work, *At Home in a Faraway Place*, follows a family's vacation in Guatemala. *The Week Junior* spoke to her about the book.

Have you visited Guatemala?

Yes. On my first visit, I went with a group and took Spanish lessons each morning. I went back the next year, and one of the families I stayed with had a 10-year-old daughter. I saw her experience in the country and wanted to write a story about it.

What did you like most about the country?

I found the people to be warm and friendly. The climate was hard to resist—it was never too hot or too chilly.

Did you write or draw first?

Both! While I was drawing, phrases or dialogue would pop into my head and I'd jot them down. Or when I was writing, I'd get ideas for pictures and sketch them in the margin.

What did you study in college?

I was going to major in architecture, but I ended up studying art. I didn't think about writing books until a friend introduced me to the art director at a book publishing company.

Is there a childhood book that inspired you?

The Forgotten Door by Alexander Key gave me big, new ideas. It's about a boy who arrives from another world and a family takes him in.

What do you like about spring?

Watching everything grow! I love the little leaves and the sequence in which the flowers bloom.

Favorite snack?

Cherries—the area of Michigan where I live has a lot of cherry

BOOK: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?
Research suggests that watching nature documentaries helps to reduce stress.

Make a nature documentary

Raise awareness of wild animals by creating your own film.

World Wildlife Day will take place on Monday, March 3. (Read about it in our story on page 3.) One way to celebrate the wild animals that live all around us—and to educate others about their importance—is to make a nature documentary. All you need to create this nonfiction film is a camera and a subject. Here's how you can get started.

Pick a theme

First, decide what you would like your nature documentary to be about. Do you want to film wildlife that lives outside your home, or would you rather ask an adult to go with you to a nearby park or nature preserve? (For ideas about what to film, see the sidebar at right.) Do some research and choose local wildlife that interests you. For example, think about the animals that live in your region and the species you are more likely to see during daylight hours.

Pick a film subject that lives nearby.

Do your research

Once you decide what to film, do some deeper research on your subject. Take notes that can help you look for interesting facts to film. For example, what are some of the animal's feeding habits? Research the physical differences you might spot between males and females of the same species, from size to color to behavior.

Film and edit

You don't need elaborate equipment to make a nature documentary. You can use a video camera or a phone with a camera. A tripod will help keep your camera steady but isn't necessary. When you're ready to film, stay a comfortable distance from wildlife so you don't startle or frighten away your subject. You can also film an introduction: Put your camera in selfie mode, introduce yourself, and let the audience know why you chose your subject. Finally, you can use a free app like iMovie or CapCut to edit your film and add titles.

Host a screening

When you're happy with your film, invite family and friends to watch it. You can have a screening at home or check with your local library about the availability of a meeting room. After the screening, have a question and answer session so the audience can ask you about your documentary. Finally, thank everyone for coming!

Backyard wildlife

You can find the subject of your nature documentary in your neighborhood. Some examples:

Garden insects Look on or around plants for bees, caterpillars, and monarch butterflies. Try capturing their fast movements using your camera's slow-motion mode.

Small mammals Animals like cottontails or squirrels are often most active at dawn or dusk. Pick a spot to zoom in on their activity from a distance.

Birds Check shrubs and feeders for backyard birds, like robins, bluejays, and cardinals. You might also visit a local pond with an adult to find mallards.

Cook up green eggs and ham

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the stove.

Ingredients

- 2 ounces cooked ham
- 4 teaspoons butter or olive oil
- ¼ large avocado
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 eggs

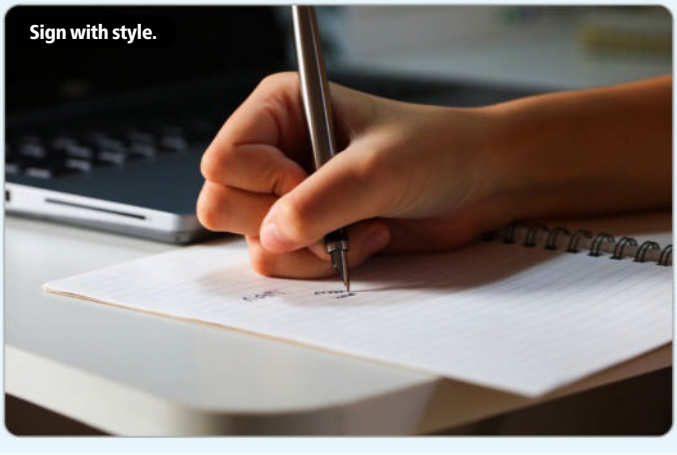
TRY THEM, I SAY! More than 200 million copies of *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss have been sold since its publication in 1960.

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 200° F and put an ovenproof plate or pan near the stove. Cut the ham into bite-size pieces (you should have about ½ cup). Heat 2 teaspoons of the butter or oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat until butter is melted or oil is shimmering hot. Don't let it burn.
2. Add the ham and cook, stirring enough so it doesn't burn, until the pieces are brown and crisp in places, about 5 minutes.
3. While the ham cooks, prepare the avocado. Ask an adult to carefully cut it downward toward the center in 2 places without cutting through the pit. Twist the avocado open, scoop out about ¼ of the fruit in big chunks, and put them in a medium bowl. (Wrap the rest of the avocado tightly in plastic and save for another use.)
4. Remove the skillet from the heat, add the maple syrup, and stir until the ham pieces are shiny. Scrape the ham and glaze from the pan onto the plate and transfer to oven to keep warm. Rinse the skillet and wipe it dry.
5. Mash the avocado with a fork or a potato masher until most of the lumps are gone. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Crack the eggs one at a time and add them to the bowl. Use a fork or a whisk to beat them with the avocado until the mixture is smooth. (You'll see that the eggs will turn a light green!)
6. Place the skillet over medium heat and add the last 2 teaspoons of butter or oil. When it's hot, add the egg mixture. Use a spatula or spoon to cook and stir the eggs, scraping the sides and bottom of the pan.
7. Serve the eggs right away with the ham and whatever else you like on the side (such as toasted pita bread). Makes 1 to 2 servings.

LIFE HACK: DESIGN YOUR OWN AMAZING SIGNATURE

Your signature identifies you, whether you are signing a card, a school form, or a yearbook. It provides an opportunity to show your style. How do you want yours to look? For inspiration, look up famous signatures. For example, Walt Disney had a loopy signature. Beyoncé's is defined by her elegant cursive and a squiggly underline. Pablo Picasso signed his paintings in thick, bold letters. Practice with a pen and paper. Choose the letters in your name that you'd like to stand out. For many, those are the initial letters of their first and last names. Experiment with the size and shape of your letters. Once you're happy with your signature, share it with a friend to make sure they can read it.

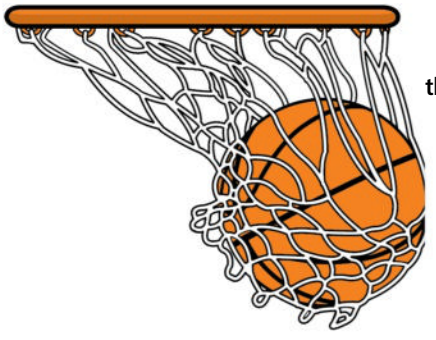


Sign with style.

GREEN EGGS AND HAM: FROM THE BOOK HOW TO COOK EVERYTHING KIDS BY MARK BITTMAN. © 2024, BY MARK BITTMAN. PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 15, 2024 BY HARVEST, AN IMPRINT OF HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION. GHAZALLE BADIOZAMANI; GETTY IMAGES. LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Word ladder

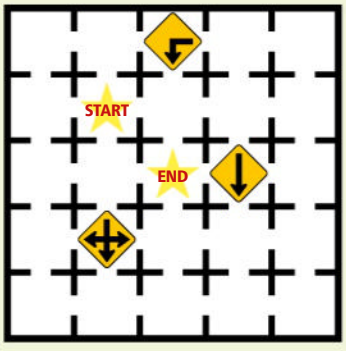
To change the word SLAM into the word DUNK, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



	S L A M
Line in a garment where two pieces are sewn together ▶	
Ray of sunlight or laser light ▶	
Prominent part of a toucan ▶	
Mountaintop ▶	
Eat from the ground the way a chicken does ▶	
Item needed for a game of ice hockey ▶	
Aquatic bird ▶	
	D U N K

DETOURS

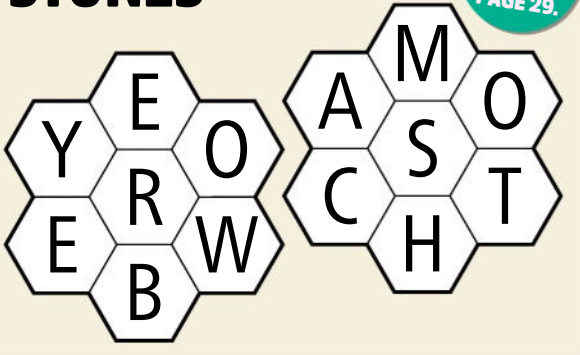
Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Each figure hides a seven-letter part of the body. To find each of the words, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.

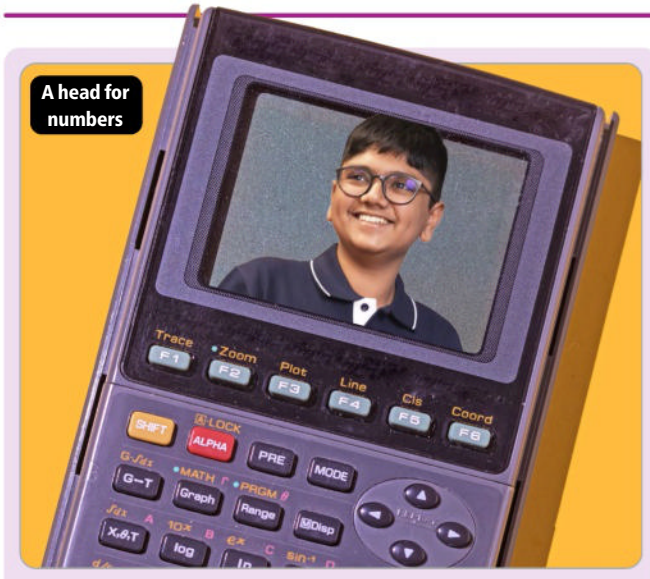
	7			
41			=	23
				×
=				
		27	=	30
				46

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a scene from *The Sound of Music* appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

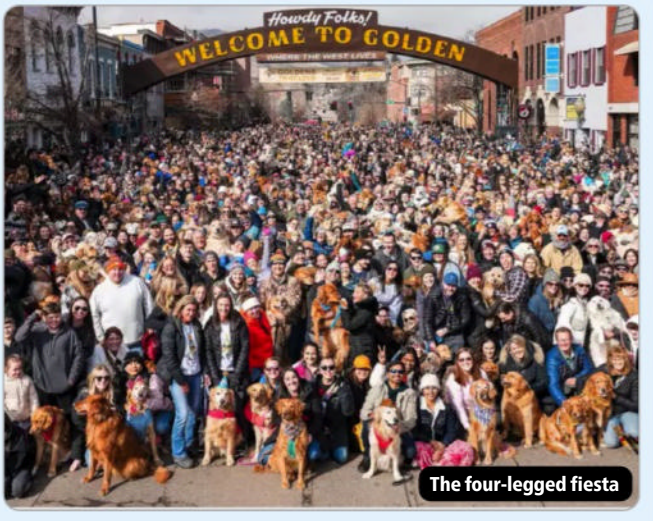
PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Stepping stones hint: The second word begins with S.



"Human calculator" breaks records

In a single day, a teen from India collected six world records for calculating extremely complicated math problems in his head. Aaryan Shukla, age 14, claimed titles including the fastest time to mentally add 100 four-digit numbers (30.9 seconds) and multiply 10 sets of two eight-digit numbers (2 minutes, 35.4 seconds). Although the mental math master has always been a whiz with numbers, he also practices for up to six hours each day. He said earning world records for his talent was "a dream."

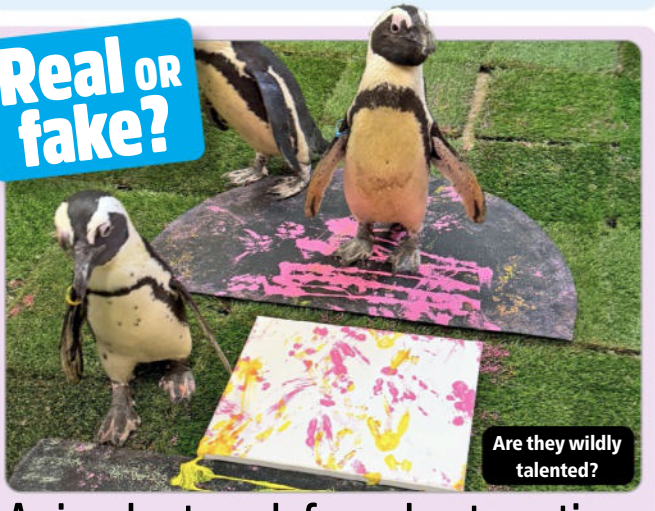


Golden day for dogs and owners

Thousands of dogs swarmed the town of Golden, Colorado, last month in honor of National Golden Retriever Day. At the Goldens in Golden gathering, first held in 2019, golden retrievers and their owners take part in special activities throughout the town. "It's a wonderful convergence of people and dogs," a spokesperson said. This year, two retriever-loving humans even got engaged at the event. Although the day honors one specific breed, it's not strictly limited to those dogs. "Nobody is checking [their] IDs," officials said.

A fast-food favorite for your lips

Idaho's new french-fry-inspired lip balm is a hot commodity. The Idaho Potato Commission recently served up the Kiss of French "lip luxury," which they said smells and tastes like french fries. The lipstick, made with real potatoes, is designed to showcase the state's most famous crop. After its release online for free with a shipping fee, supplies ran out within hours. "French fries aren't just a favorite—they're a staple," said the commission's president. "We're taking that obsession to a whole new level."



Animal artwork for sale at auction

A New York zoo is holding a silent art auction with a surprising twist. The artwork is made by the zoo's animal residents. Zookeepers used food and laser pointers to encourage penguins, giraffes, sloths, and capybaras to express their creative side. "They are very food-motivated," a keeper explained. A social media post said the creatures were "hard at work putting the finishing touches on their masterpieces" before the zoo's upcoming fundraising gala. Is this story true, or have we sold you a lie?*

*Real! Humans helped some of the animals use paintbrushes, while penguins simply waddled through the nontoxic paint to make their artwork. Gala attendees will bid on the art, with proceeds supporting the animals' care.

GETTY IMAGES (3); GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; KEN MOSTEK PHOTOGRAPHY; THE ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK AND PRESERVE IN HARPURSVILLE

Editor's note

This week we are celebrating World Wildlife Day (WWD), a global event that raises awareness of endangered animals and plants and the importance of protecting them (p3). To see all our articles on this subject, look for the green circle throughout the issue. You can read about this year's WWD theme (p3), koala conservation at the San Diego Zoo (p5), a tiger comeback in India (p10), and a secret of polar bear fur (p15). This issue's Charity of the Week (see the box below) highlights the bald eagle, another amazing conservation success story. You can also find out how to create your own wildlife documentary (p24). If you make a film—or do anything else to help wildlife in your community or around the world—we would love to know about it. Write to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We always enjoy hearing from you!

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

American Eagle Foundation

This organization works to protect the American bald eagle and all birds of prey that are at risk of becoming extinct. The bald eagle was on the endangered species list for many years, but its population is increasing. The foundation advocates for the protection of eagle habitats, educates people about the raptors, cares for sick birds, and returns them to the wild. Find out more at eagles.org.

SNACKS YOU MADE FOR THE SUPER BOWL

Show us your favorite issue of *The Week Junior*!

The Week Junior is marking its fifth anniversary this month. To celebrate, we're asking readers to send us photos of themselves holding the issue they enjoyed most since they began subscribing. Some of the photos we receive will appear in Issue 257. If you'd like to participate, ask an adult to email your photo to *hello@theweekjunior.com* with Favorite Issue in the subject line. Thank you for helping us look back on an amazing five years of publication!

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

Thank you to everyone who sent us photos of the treats they made for the Super Bowl using recipes from *The Week Junior*. Some of the submissions are shown here. We enjoy seeing photos with you in them anytime! Have an adult email them to *hello@theweekjunior.com* along with anything you'd like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Payne**

School: **Belding Elementary School**

"I would like to nominate my math and homeroom teacher, Ms. Payne. She is an amazing teacher because she really connects with all her students. Ms. Payne is super empathetic and kind. She runs all the sports and comes to the games to support us. If I were ever asked who inspires me the most, I would hands-down say Ms. Payne!"

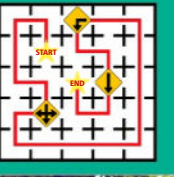
Leona, 10, Illinois

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

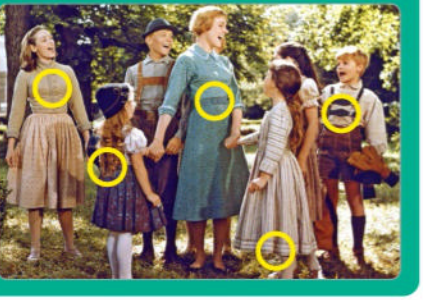
Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder
SLAM
SEAM
BEAM
BEAK
PEAK
PECK
PUCK
DUCK
DUNK



		7		
41	−	18	=	23
4				×
=				2
3	+	27	=	30
		46		

Stepping stones
eyebrow, stomach



Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 c) 75% **2** True **3** a) Disgust **4** *Holes* **5** a) 1902 **6** False. It was nominated for 10 and won five. **7** SS United States **8** b) Guatemala **9** True **10** a) Atlanta, Georgia **11** "Baby Shark Dance" **12** c) Connor McDavid **13** True **14** b) Conan O'Brien **15** Golden

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 About what percent of the world's tigers now live in India?

a) 55% b) 65% c) 75%

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? The Japanese character of Hello Kitty is a little girl, not a cat.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which word were scientists recently able to read in ancient Greek on a Herculaneum scroll?

a) Disgust b) Fear c) Surprise

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 Disney+ is making a new television show based on what classic young adult novel?

5 When was the Mount Lyell shrew first discovered?

a) 1902 b) 1922 c) 1942

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? *The Sound of Music* was nominated for five Academy Awards and won them all.

True ☐ False ☐

7 What is the name of the ocean liner that recently left Philadelphia to become an artificial reef?

8 In the book *At Home in a Faraway Place*, Lissie and her family travel to which country?

a) Costa Rica b) Guatemala c) Honduras

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2

12

1

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

7

15

9 True or false? World Wildlife Day is held on March 3 every year.

True ☐ False ☐

10 The new exhibition *Ryoji Ikeda: data-verse* is coming to a museum in what city?

a) Atlanta, Georgia

b) Birmingham, Alabama

c) Austin, Texas

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 What is the most-watched video of all time on YouTube?

12 Who scored the winning goal for Canada in overtime in the 4 Nations Face-Off championship game?

a) Sam Bennett

b) Nathan MacKinnon

c) Connor McDavid

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? Scientists recently discovered that it takes 32 minutes to boil a perfect egg.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Who is the winner of this year's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor?

a) Adam Sandler b) Conan O'Brien

c) Tina Fey

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 What is the name of the Colorado town where thousands of golden retrievers gathered to celebrate National Golden Retriever Day?

THE WEEK Junior

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Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
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